

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-02

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USINT CAIRO

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E. O. 11652: N/ A DECONTROL 12/31/75

TAGS: MASS, EG, LY, FR

SUBJ: LIBYAN MIRAGE TRANSFER

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE WASHDC INFO ALGIERS MOSCOW
TEL AVIV TRIPOLI TUNIS FROM PARIS APRIL 25 REPEATED

QUOTE

PARIS 11305

E. O. 11652: N/ A DECONTROL 12/31/75

TAGS: MASS, EG, LY, FR

SUBJECT: LIBYAN MIRAGE TRANSFER

DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO

1. FOLLOWING FOREIGN MINISTER EBAN' S EASTER DEMARCHE TO FRENCH
AMBASSADOR HURE, PUBLIC INTEREST IN QUESTION OF TRANSFER OF
FRENCH SUPPLIED MIRAGES FROM LIBYA TO EGYPT HAS AGAIN
INCREASED. WITH PARIS COMPLETELY CLOSED FOR EASTER WEEKEND,
THERE WAS VIRTUALLY NO OFFICIAL COMMENT ON EBAN' S DEMARCHE,
THOUGH QUAI SOURCES APPARENTLY TOLD PRESS THAT EBAN HAD NOT
FURNISHED FRENCH AMBASSADOR ANY DOCUMENT OR PROOF OF TRANSFER.
FRENCH PRESS HAS ALSO REPORTED ISRAELI GOVERNMENT SOURCES TO
EFFECT THAT AMBASSADOR GIVEN BASIS ON WHICH ISRAEL BASED ITS
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CONVICTIONS THAT TRANSFER HAD TAKEN PLACE.

2. GAULLIST LA NATION IN ITS APRIL 24 ANALYSIS OF SITUATION IS EXTREMELY CAUTIOUS IN DISCUSSING TRANSFER AND SUGGESTS IMPORTANCE OF WAITING FOR FURTHER CLARIFICATIONS. IT REITERATES FORMER PRIME MINISTER CHABAN DELMAS' STATEMENT OF JANUARY 1970 THAT FRANCE WOULD NOT " FEED CONFLICT IN MIDDLE EAST" AND THAT IF MIRAGES CHANGED DESTINATION THERE WOULD BE EMBARGO ON THOSE NOT YET DELIVERED. NATION ASSURES ITS READERS THAT FRANCE DOES NOT HAVE DOUBLE STANDARD AS FAR AS ARMS SUPPLIES GO, BUT JUSTIFIES ARMS SALES TO LIBYA ON BASIS OF COMMON MEDITERRANEAN INTERESTS.

3. RIGHTIST AURORE IN SIGNED EDITORIAL APRIL 24 STATES THAT THERE COULD BE NO DOUBT THAT IN CASE OF MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT FRENCH MIRAGES WOULD BE USED AGAINST ISRAEL. IT WARNS THAT GOF WOULD BE PRUDENT TO TAKE SERIOUSLY ISRAELI INTELLIGENCE WHICH IS OF " ALMOST LEGENDARY EFFECTIVENESS." GOF IT SAYS WILL HAVE DIFFICULT DECISION TO MAKE IF ISRAELI EVIDENCE MADE PUBLIC: EITHER A) TO ADMIT IT HAD BEEN DUPED BY LIBYANS AND HENCE SUSPEND DELIVERIES, OR B) TO ATTEMPT TO MINIMIZE EXTENT OF VIOLATIONS THEREBY TILTING POLICY MORE OVERTLY IN ARAB DIRECTION. DECONTROL 12/31/75.

IRWIN

UNQUOTE ROGERS

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NMAFVVZCZ

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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